

# Waste prevention country profile

# Lithuania

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European Environment Agency



## Country profile: Lithuania

### General information

Name of the country/ region	Lithuania
Geographical coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/ regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan or into the circular economy strategy)	Integrated into National Waste Prevention and Management Plan (2021-2027)
Title of programme and link to programme	“Valstybinis atliekų prevencijos ir tvarkymo 2021-2027 metų planas” (National Waste Prevention and Management Plan 2021-2027), URL: <a href="https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/caef2783e1af11ecb1b39d276e924a5d?positionInSearchResults=12&amp;searchModelUID=5e15d9a6-5a7c-4d27-8063-a2d7abdbc8da">https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/caef2783e1af11ecb1b39d276e924a5d?positionInSearchResults=12&amp;searchModelUID=5e15d9a6-5a7c-4d27-8063-a2d7abdbc8da</a>
Duration of programme	2021 -2027
Language	Lithuanian
Contact person in the country/region	Vilma Slavinskienė, Waste Policy Group of the Ministry of Environment <a href="mailto:vilma.slavinskiene@am.lt">vilma.slavinskiene@am.lt</a>
Development process of the programme/ revision	The program as part of the National Waste Prevention and Management Plan is approved in the mid of 2022. The program will be valid until 2027.
Foreseen budget for implementation of the programme	A budget for the implementation of specific measures has been included in the plan.



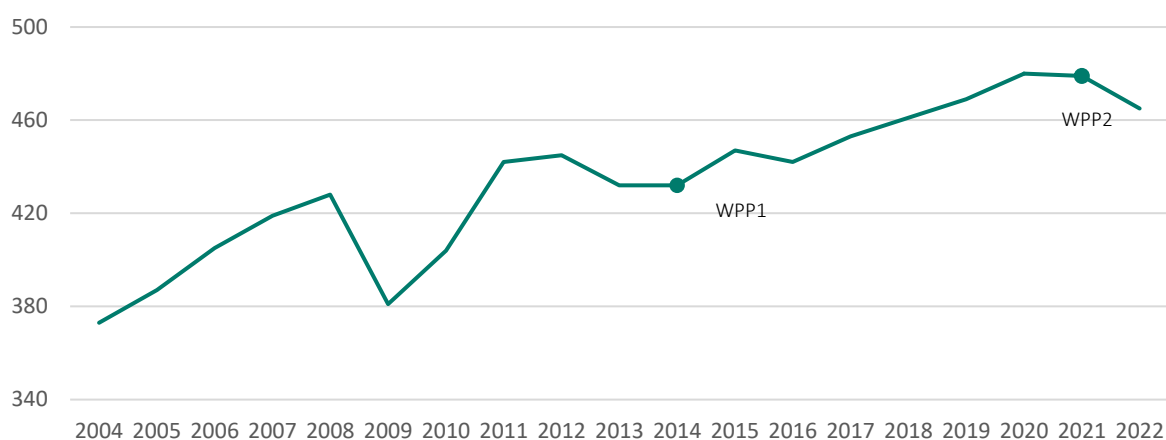
## WASTE GENERATION

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Lithuania:

### Municipal solid waste (MSW)

Lithuania's municipal waste generation has remained rather stable over the past decade (Figure 1). In 2022, the country generated 465 kg/cap of municipal waste, which is slightly below the estimated EU27 average of 513 kg/cap.

**Figure 1 Municipal waste generation in Lithuania (kg per capita), 2004-2022**



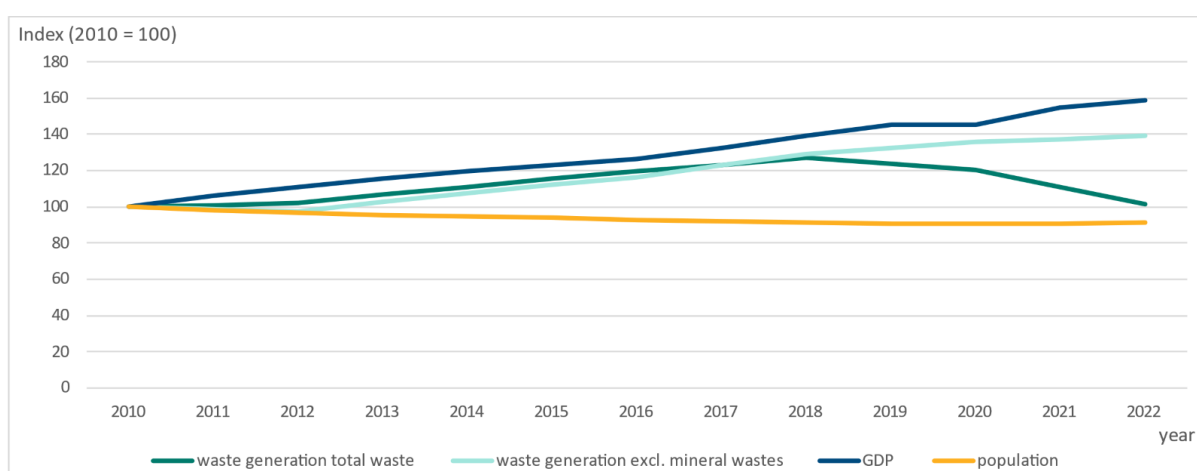
**Source:** Eurostat [ENV\_WASMUN].

**Note:** As of reference year 2020, new reporting rules apply for calculating recycled municipal waste pursuant to the targets laid down in Article 11.2(c-e) of Directive 2008/98/EC. Lithuania has implemented the new reporting rules for reference year 2020 onwards

## Total waste

The total amount of waste generated in Lithuania increased until 2018 but has decreased since (Figure 2). This trend is primarily driven by the largest waste categories, namely mineral waste from construction and demolition, and other mineral wastes (mainly generated in manufacturing activities). When looking at wastes excluding major mineral wastes, recyclable ferrous metal wastes, sorting residues and household and similar wastes dominate as the largest waste fractions. Especially the amount of sorting residues has increased steadily and influences the overall trend, indicating major changes in the waste management system. Lithuania's GDP increased since throughout the considered time frame, with the exception of a drop in 2020, most likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. While additional data points are required for confirmation, most recent data years indicate a potential decoupling between waste generation and economic growth.

**Figure 2 Generation of waste (total and excluding major mineral wastes), population and economic development, 2010-2022**



**Source:** Eurostat [ENV\_WASGEN, NAMA\_10\_PC, DEMO\_GIND]

**Note:** Waste generation data for odd years are interpolated.

# WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

## Objectives and priorities

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1. Waste prevention objectives of the Programme - quantitative objectives (waste reduction) - qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/ environmental impacts)	<p>The plan for 2021-2027 aims to reduce the amount of waste generated, ensure the safe management of waste for human health and the environment and the rational use of material and energy resources, thus reducing the use of natural and other resources, landfilling, environmental pollution and providing industry with local raw materials.</p> <p>Waste prevention goals and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- avoid the generation of waste, and reduce the amount of generated waste and hazardous substances in raw materials and products;</li><li>- to encourage users to choose reusable products, products for repeated use, repair and/or repair services;</li><li>- combat littering, manage existing litter;</li><li>- promote and ensure the prevention of food waste;</li><li>- promote the ecological design of products and structures, implement business models that ensure waste prevention.</li></ul>
2. Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• manufacturing and industry;</li><li>• construction and infrastructure;</li><li>• retail;</li><li>• households;</li><li>• service activities;</li><li>• hospitality;</li><li>• public services (including procurement).</li></ul>
3. Priority waste types	<p>The following waste streams have separate sections in the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Food and food waste;</li><li>- Packaging and packaging waste;</li><li>- Electrical and electronic equipment, waste electrical and electronic equipment;</li><li>- End-of-life vehicles;</li><li>- Waste oils;</li><li>- Waste batteries and car batteries;</li><li>- Waste tyres;</li><li>- Waste fishing gear containing plastic;</li><li>- Waste textile;</li><li>- Waste furniture;</li><li>- Hazardous waste;</li><li>- Manufacturing waste;</li><li>- Construction and demolition waste;</li><li>- Healthcare waste;</li><li>- Sewage sludge.</li></ul> <p>Among waste and litter prevention measures, following waste streams are mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Food waste;</li><li>- Packaging;</li><li>- Fishing gear containing plastic waste;</li><li>- Electrical and electronic equipment;</li></ul>

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- Furniture;
  - Textiles;
  - Construction and demolition waste.

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4. Target groups

Several ministries are responsible for the implementation of the plan and its measures. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan, and municipalities - for the execution of the tasks set for them in the Plan.

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## Targets, indicators and monitoring

1.	Indicators used to monitor progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circular material use index (%);</li> <li>• Waste intensity, net waste amount per GDP, (ton per MEUR);</li> <li>• Municipal waste per capita (kg/year) compared to the EU average;</li> <li>• Share of municipal waste deposited in landfills (%);</li> <li>• Share of waste prepared for reuse and recycled waste in municipal waste (%);</li> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions in the waste sector compared to the base year 2005 (% change);</li> </ul>
2.	Quantitative targets	<p>Targets and criteria for evaluation of the indicators above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Circular material use rate</i>: no less than EU average in 2025 and 2027;</li> <li>- <i>Waste intensity of net waste volume per GDP</i>: 100 tones/MEUR in 2025 and 90 tones/MEUR in 2027;</li> <li>- <i>Municipal waste per capita</i>: below the average of the European Union in 2025 and 2027;</li> <li>- <i>Share of municipal waste deposited in landfills</i>: 15 % in 2025 and 8% in 2027;</li> <li>- <i>Share of waste prepared for reuse and recycled waste in municipal waste</i>: 55 % in 2025 and 57% in 2027;</li> <li>- <i>Greenhouse gas emissions in the waste sector compared to 2005</i>: -50,9 % in 2025 and -61% in 2027.</li> </ul>
3.	Monitoring mechanism of the programme	The monitoring of the plan is performed annually and results are published on the website of the Environmental Protection Agency.
4.	Evaluation of the programme	According to the WPP, evaluations should occur every six years. However, information regarding the WPP evaluation was not available on government websites at the time this country profile was updated.

## Prevention measures

Implemented prevention measures according to Article 9

The waste prevention programme includes the following measures that are proposed to avoid waste generation (Chapter 1.5):

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured according to Art 9 WFD

<p>Promote and support <b>sustainable consumption</b> models</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current plan includes measures to encourage eco-design for products and buildings and support business models that encourage waste prevention:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ enable the sustainable transformation of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies;</li> <li>○ develop and approve a methodology for modelling the environmental life cycle impacts of buildings;</li> <li>○ finance technological solutions of companies that ensure efficient use of resources, use fewer primary and more secondary raw materials for the provision of products or services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Encourage the design, manufacturing and use of products that are <b>resource-efficient, durable</b> (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), <b>reparable, re-usable</b> and <b>upgradable</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current plan includes following measures to encourage users to choose reusable products, second hand products, repaired products and/or repair services:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to promote and finance the development of small businesses providing trade of second-hand items and repair services;</li> <li>- assess the possibility of expanding the use of reusable packaging (glass and others) and, if necessary, change legislation;</li> <li>- organize information campaigns encouraging the choice of reusable products and second-hand items.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Target products containing <b>critical raw materials</b> to prevent that those materials become waste.</p>	<p>Include measures to promote WEEE prevention, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organise information campaigns to promote the use of second-hand products;</li> <li>- promote and support the development of small businesses providing trade in used items and repair services;</li> </ul> <p>create conditions for the sustainable transformation of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of</p>



	innovative and environmentally friendly technologies.
Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting <b>repair and re-use activities</b> , including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products.	Include measures to promote preparation for reuse, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prepare and approve the criteria for recognizing items (EEE, furniture and textiles) not suitable (unfit) for reuse;</li> <li>• to prepare and approve a control procedure for recognizing used EEE, furniture and textiles as unsuitable for use and to strengthen control, so that only safe ready-to-reuse products enter the domestic market;</li> <li>• to expand the network of collection points (stations) for reuse and finance the preparation for reuse activities,</li> <li>• assess the possibility to introduce regulatory measures obliging that the returns and re-sales of unused leftover goods and materials (e.g. construction and renovation materials, furniture, textile and other materials) are offered at their points of sale.</li> </ul>
Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights , the <b>availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information</b> , or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and re-use of products without compromising their quality and safety.	
<b>Reduce waste generation</b> in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account <b>best available techniques</b> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• finance technological solutions of companies that ensure efficient use of resources, use fewer primary and more secondary raw materials for the provision of products or services.</li> </ul>
<b>Reduce the generation of food waste</b> in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.	The plan contains following measures to ensure the prevention of food waste in order to contribute to UN SDG reduce by 50 % per capita food waste by 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to establish a platform for cooperation to find the most advanced, rational solutions for food prevention and ensure the sustainable use of food, finding food-sharing ideas and good practices;</li> <li>- provide financing measures to promote food sharing, and food donation opportunities;</li> <li>- provide funding opportunities to continue and expand the initiatives of sustainable food consumption in public catering establishments, school canteens, kindergartens, and workplaces, promoting buffet-based catering;</li> <li>- initiate educational campaigns for the population to ensure economical shopping, sustainable food consumption and reduced household food waste;</li> <li>- create conditions for the sustainable transformation of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies;</li> <li>- promote and support short food supply chains;</li> <li>- establish requirements for large retail chains, catering establishments and food production</li> </ul>

	<p>companies to obligatorily donate food (suitable for humans) in accordance with good foreign practice.</p>
<p>Encourage <b>food donation</b> and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establish a platform for cooperation to find the most advanced, rational solutions for food prevention and ensure the sustainable use of food, finding food-sharing ideas, and good practices;</li> <li>- provide financing measures to promote food sharing, food donation opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p>Promote the <b>reduction of the content of hazardous substances</b> in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at Union level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The existing program includes qualitative aspects of waste prevention such as finance eco-design, promote less use of hazardous substances, apply digital and advanced solutions to reduce waste generation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reduce</b> the generation of <b>waste</b>, in particular waste <b>that is not suitable for preparing for re-use or recycling</b>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to finance technological solutions that ensure more efficient use of resources, use fewer primary and more secondary raw materials for products or services;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Identify</b> products that are <b>the main sources of littering</b>, notably in natural and marine environments, and <b>take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter</b> from such products, where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they shall ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current plan includes the following measures to prevent littering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ implement information campaigns and measures to reduce littering with single-use plastic products and pollution with fishing gear;</li> <li>○ organize and promote civic garbage collection initiatives;</li> <li>○ include litter collection in forests, around water bodies, on roads in public works programs;</li> <li>○ include environmental topics as well as anti-littering measures in general education programs;</li> <li>○ extend the collection of source-sorted waste in public places (parks, main streets, etc.);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter</b> as a contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ set legal requirements so that single-use thin plastic shopping bags are not distributed free of charge;</li> <li>○ in order to reduce plastic packaging waste, develop a network of public drinking water stations in municipal attraction centres, public sports grounds, playgrounds, and parks.</li> </ul>
<p>Develop and support <b>information campaigns to raise awareness</b> about waste prevention and littering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current plan includes the following measures related to information campaigns to raise awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ organize information campaigns encouraging the choice of reusable products and reuse of items</li> <li>○ implement public information and publicity measures in order to reduce littering with single-use plastic products and pollution with fishing gear,</li> <li>○ organize and promote litter collection initiatives;</li> <li>○ include littering prevention as part of education programs</li> <li>○ initiate educational campaigns for the population to ensure economical shopping, sustainable food consumption, and reduced household food waste.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

### Food waste generation

According to the data of the State Waste Accounting, and the research of the composition of mixed municipal waste, the amount of food waste generated in Lithuanian households is growing. Almost 36 kg of food waste per capita was generated in 2017. In 2018 the amount had increased to 37 kg/capita, in 2019 – to 41 kg/capita and in 2020 – to 43.7 kg/capita and year.

### Measures to prevent food waste

The waste prevention programme for 2021-2027 lists measures for food waste prevention along the food production and supply chain to contribute to UN's SDG goal 12.3 (to reduce food waste by 50% per capita by 2030):

- to establish a platform for cooperation to find the most advanced, rational solutions for food prevention and ensure the sustainable use of food, finding food-sharing ideas and practices;
- provide tax deduction and financing measures to promote food sharing, food donation opportunities;
- provide funding opportunities to continue and expand the initiatives of sustainable food consumption in public catering establishments, school canteens, kindergartens and workplaces, promoting buffet-based catering;
- initiate educational campaigns for the population to ensure economical shopping, sustainable food consumption and reducing household food waste;

- create conditions for the sustainable transformation of small and medium-size enterprises: promote the development, demonstration and implementation of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies;
- promote and support short food supply chains;
- establish requirements for large retail chains, catering establishments and food production companies to obligatorily donate food (suitable for humans) in accordance with good foreign practice.

## **REUSE OF PRODUCTS**

### Data

According to 2021 data reported to the EEA according to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/19 (EEA, 2024) Lithuania re-used:

- 15 966 tonnes of textiles;
- 32 623 tonnes of electrical and electronic devices;
- 45 444 tonnes of furniture.
- 115 886 tonnes of construction materials

It should be noted that this data has been reported for the first time. More information about the interpretation and limitations of the data set are available (EEA, 2024).

### Measures to support Reuse

The plan includes plans to initiate agreements with the trade sector in order to protect and develop the existing reuse systems for packaging, thus reducing waste generation and to prepare a law on waste management and accompanying implementing legislation and amendments in order to establish requirements for reuse and preparation for reuse operations.

Measures include

- prepare and approve criteria for recognising items (EEE, furniture and textiles) not suitable (unfit) for reuse;
- prepare and approve the control procedure for recognizing EEE, furniture, and textiles as items unfit for use and thus strengthen control, so that only safe ready-to-reuse products enter the domestic market;
- provide financial incentives for reuse of items: to extend a network for the collection points for reuse of items;
- assess possibility to introduce regulatory measures obliging that the returns and re-sales of unused leftover goods and materials (e.g. construction and renovation materials, furniture, textile and other materials) are offered at their points of sale.

## Best practice examples

### Increasing textile reuse

Textile waste entering the municipal waste stream accounts for approximately 8% of the total municipal waste stream in Lithuania and most of it is disposed of or incinerated. Currently, residents can deliver textile waste to municipal bulky waste reception sites or dedicated containers (more information [www.atliekos.lt](http://www.atliekos.lt)). The Minister of Environment approved requirements for separate textile waste collection from residents which came into force 2025-01-01 together with mandatory separate textile waste collection system. In January 2025 municipalities meet requirements set for separate textile waste collection in more populated areas (1 container for 2000 residents when population density >1500 unit/square km.). However, not all municipalities meet criteria set for lower population density areas (1 container for 1000 residents when population density <1500 unit/square km. Neither does ongoing collection of textile waste does not guarantee the reuse and recycling of textile waste. Ca 13% of used textiles is collected separately from all new textiles sold.

After establishing in Lithuania in 2013, a global fast fashion brand started the *collection* of used clothing in any condition *in the stores* of its Lithuanian branch network. During this time, over 260 tons of textile waste were collected in Lithuania alone. For each kilo collected, the Lithuanian branch allocated 2 cents to the Red Cross Society.

*Vinted* is an online marketplace based in Lithuania for buying, selling and exchanging new or second-hand items, mainly clothing and accessories. *Vinted* provides users a platform to sell their clothing and accessories, purchase or swap from other users, and communicate with members using the forums. Since their launch, *Vinted* has expanded into men's and children's clothing. As of 2020, *Vinted* is available in fifteen countries. Its impact on global textile reuse is notable, named the world's largest market-place for used fashion items, the number of transactions per month exceeded 4 million in 2018<sup>1</sup>. In line with the European Commission's proposal to establish mandatory textile waste management systems based on the principle of extended producer responsibility, the new requirements include provisions for fostering cooperation between textile waste managers and social enterprises, as well as charity and support organizations. Survey results indicate that at least 100 collection points for textile waste are available across various municipalities.

Generally, the attitude towards and motivation for reuse of textile is changing. When the motivation earlier has been dominantly economic, environmental motivation is increasing<sup>2</sup>, witnessed by shopkeepers of second-hand clothing stores.

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<sup>1</sup> Knowles K. 2018. Step Into Vinted: The World's Largest Pre-Loved Fashion Marketplace. Available at: <https://www.forbes.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tv3.lt/naujiena/verslas/laukia-naujoves-rusiuosime-ne-tik-tekstile-bet-ir-maisto-bei-statybines-atliekas-n1104980>



## Links to circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces the input of natural resources into the economy as well as the necessary efforts to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches for improving circularity are often highly interlinked with successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into the waste prevention programme.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Addressed in the programme</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Eco-design	Yes	Inter alia by preparing methodological material for ecological design of products (packaging and electrical and electronic equipment).
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Yes	Assessment of feasibility of financial incentives for repair and reuse.
Recycling	Yes	Increased recycling based on wider and more efficient source separation of waste is a core item in the national waste management plan.
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	Inter alia by financial support to companies to implement environmental management systems.
Circular business models	Yes	Lithuania will improve the requirements of Green Procurement, to set the requirements for public procurement up to 50%. increase green procurement.
Eco-innovation	Yes	E.g. requirements for waste prevention have been included in the evaluation criteria of the competition “Lithuanian Product of the Year”
Governance, skills and knowledge	Yes	Several training initiatives for public organisations, ministries and waste organisations relating to waste prevention .